

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-45 (Canceled).

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): A server connected to a network having a client computer and a plurality of image forming apparatuses, comprising:

sending means for sending to said client computer a predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

receiving means for receiving, from said client computer, a primary print function selection instruction corresponding to at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities;

searching means for performing a search for at least one desired image forming apparatus satisfying said primary print function selection instruction from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

outputting means for outputting, as a result of said search, one of a first list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and a second list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of the requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists;

receiving means for receiving a printer selection instruction sent from said client computer for selecting one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

transmitting means for transmitting, to said client computer, information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

admitting means for admitting a secondary print function selection instruction sent from said client computer corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected; and

commanding means for commanding said one selected desired image forming apparatus with a print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 46, further comprising:
storing means for previously storing said information items associated with image forming inherent in each one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses,
wherein said information items include the predetermined set of basic print capabilities.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 46, wherein said first and second lists indicating said image forming apparatuses output by said outputting means further indicate status information and location information corresponding to said image forming apparatuses.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 46, wherein said second list indicates said image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of said primary print function selection instruction in order of decreasing satisfaction of said primary print function selection instruction.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 46, further comprising:
storing means for storing a layout of control elements in an operating panelboard,

wherein said transmitting means further transmits a layout of control elements in an operating panelboard of said one selected desired image forming apparatus.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 46, wherein said print execution instruction further includes said primary print function selection instruction.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): A client computer connected to a network having a server and a plurality of image forming apparatuses, said client computer comprising:

indicating means for indicating information;

receiving means for receiving, from said server, information including a predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses and causing said indicating means to indicate said predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

receiving means for receiving an entry of a primary print function selection instruction corresponding to at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities indicated by said indicating means and for sending said primary print function selection instruction to said server;

obtaining means for obtaining, as a result of a search performed by said server, a first list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and a second list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of the requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists, and for causing said indicating means to indicate said first and second list;

transmitting means for transmitting a printer selection instruction to said server for selecting one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

admitting means for admitting information items sent from said server and associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected, and for causing said indicating means to indicate said information items;

entering means for entering and transferring, to said server, a secondary print function selection instruction corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected; and

commanding means for commanding said one selected desired image forming apparatus via said server with a print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The client computer of Claim 52, wherein said admitting means further admits a layout of control elements in an operating panelboard of said one selected desired image forming apparatus sent from said server when said transmitting means transmits said printer selection instruction for said one desired image forming apparatus, and causes said indicating means to indicate said layout.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 52, wherein said print execution instruction further includes said primary print function selection instruction.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): A network system comprising:

a client computer;

a plurality of image forming apparatuses; and

a server comprising:

sending means for sending to said client computer a predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

receiving means for receiving, from said client computer, a primary print function selection instruction corresponding to at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities;

searching means for performing a search for at least one desired image forming apparatus satisfying said primary print function selection instruction from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

outputting means for outputting, as a result of said search, a first list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists;

receiving means for receiving a printer selection sent from said client computer for selecting instruction one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

transmitting means for transmitting, to said client computer, information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

admitting means for admitting a secondary print function selection instruction sent from said client computer corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;
and

commanding means for commanding said one selected desired image forming apparatus with a print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction;

wherein said client computer comprises:

receiving means for receiving, from said server, said predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

receiving means for receiving an entry of said primary print function selection instruction corresponding to said at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities and sending said primary print function selection instruction to said server;

obtaining means for obtaining, as a result of said search performed by said server, said first list indicating said image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists;

transmitting means for transmitting said printer selection instruction to said server for selecting said one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

admitting means for admitting said information items sent from said server and associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

entering means for entering and transferring, to said server, said secondary print function selection instruction corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

commanding means for commanding said one selected desired image forming apparatus via said server with said print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction; and

indicating means for indicating at least said predetermined set of basic print capabilities, said first or second list, and said information items upon arrival from said server.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 55, wherein said print execution instruction further includes said primary print function selection instruction.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A method of controlling a network image forming, comprising:

indicating a predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network;

allowing an entry of a primary print function selection instruction corresponding to at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities indicated by said indicating;

performing a search for at least one desired image forming apparatus satisfying said primary print function selection instruction from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

indicating, as a result of said search, a first list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such

image forming apparatuses exist and image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists;

receiving a printer selection instruction for selecting one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

indicating information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

admitting a secondary print function selection instruction corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected; and

commanding said one selected desired image forming apparatus with a print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 57, wherein said print execution instruction further includes said primary print function selection instruction.

Claim 59 (New): A server connected to a network having a client computer and a plurality of image forming apparatuses, comprising:

a communication device configured to send to said client computer a predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

a receiver configured to receive, from said client computer, a primary print function selection instruction corresponding to at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities;

a searching device configured to perform a search for at least one desired image forming apparatus satisfying said primary print function selection instruction from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

an output configured to output, as a result of said search, one of a first list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and a second list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of the requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists;

an input configured to receive a printer selection instruction sent from said client computer for selecting one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

a transmitter configured to transmit, to said client computer, information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

an admitting device configured to admit a secondary print function selection instruction sent from said client computer corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected; and

a control device configured to command said one selected desired image forming apparatus with a print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction.

Claim 60 (New): The server of Claim 59, further comprising:

a memory configured to previously store said information items associated with image forming inherent in each one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses,

wherein said information items include the predetermined set of basic print capabilities.

Claim 61 (New): The server of Claim 59, wherein said first and second lists indicating said image forming apparatuses output by said output further indicate status information and location information corresponding to said image forming apparatuses.

Claim 62 (New): The server of Claim 59, wherein said second list indicates said image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of said primary print function selection instruction in order of decreasing satisfaction of said primary print function selection instruction.

Claim 63 (New): The server of Claim 59, further comprising:
a memory configured to store a layout of control elements in an operating panelboard,
wherein said transmitter further transmits a layout of control elements in an operating panelboard of said one selected desired image forming apparatus.

Claim 64 (New): The server of Claim 59, wherein said print execution instruction further includes said primary print function selection instruction.

Claim 65 (New): A client computer connected to a network having a server and a plurality of image forming apparatuses, said client computer comprising:
an indicator configured to indicate information;
an input configured to receive, from said server, information including a predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming

apparatuses and causing said indicator to indicate said predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

an input configured to receive an entry of a primary print function selection instruction corresponding to at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities indicated by said indicator and to send said primary print function selection instruction to said server;

a controller configured to obtain, as a result of a search performed by said server, a first list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and a second list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of the requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists, and to cause said indicator to indicate said first and second list;

a transmitter configured to transmit a printer selection instruction to said server for selecting one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

an admitting device configured to admit information items sent from said server and associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected, and to cause said indicator to indicate said information items;

an input configured to enter and transfer, to said server, a secondary print function selection instruction corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected; and

a controller configured to command said one selected desired image forming apparatus via said server with a print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction.

Claim 66 (New): The client computer of Claim 65, wherein said admitting device further receives a layout of control elements in an operating panelboard of said one selected desired image forming apparatus sent from said server when said transmitter transmits said printer selection instruction for said one desired image forming apparatus, and causes said indicator to indicate said layout.

Claim 67 (New): The server of Claim 65, wherein said print execution instruction further includes said primary print function selection instruction.

Claim 68 (New): A network system comprising:

a client computer;

a plurality of image forming apparatuses; and

a server comprising:

an output configured to said client computer a predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

a receiver configured to receive, from said client computer, a primary print function selection instruction corresponding to at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities;

a searching device configured to perform a search for at least one desired image forming apparatus satisfying said primary print function selection instruction from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

an output configured to output, as a result of said search, a first list indicating image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of said primary print function selection instruction when

such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists;

an input configured to receive a printer selection sent from said client computer for selecting instruction one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

a transmitter configured to transmit, to said client computer, information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

an admitting device configured to admit a secondary print function selection instruction sent from said client computer corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected; and

a control device configured to command said one selected desired image forming apparatus with a print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction;

wherein said client computer comprises:

an input configured to receive, from said server, said predetermined set of basic print capabilities pertinent to said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

an input configured to receive an entry of said primary print function selection instruction corresponding to said at least one basic print capability selected from among said predetermined set of basic print capabilities and to send said primary print function selection instruction to said server;

a controller configured to obtain, as a result of said search performed by said server, said first list indicating said image forming apparatuses satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction when such image

forming apparatuses exist and image forming apparatuses satisfying a part of said primary print function selection instruction when such image forming apparatuses exist and no image forming apparatus satisfying all requirements of said primary print function selection instruction exists;

a transmitter configured to transmit said printer selection instruction to said server for selecting said one desired image forming apparatus from said first or second list;

an admitting device configured to admit said information items sent from said server and associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

an input configured to input and transfer, to said server, said secondary print function selection instruction corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent in said one desired image forming apparatus selected;

a controller configured to command said one selected desired image forming apparatus via said server with said print execution instruction including said secondary print function selection instruction; and

an indicator configured to indicate at least said predetermined set of basic print capabilities, said first or second list, and said information items upon arrival from said server.

Claim 69 (New): The server of Claim 68, wherein said print execution instruction further includes said primary print function selection instruction.